

BOARD MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church  
4769 West Babcock, Bozeman

#### OUR PURPOSE:

Shall be to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in the back country and assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of the resource and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses, commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.

#### 2023 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

##### PRESIDENT

Chris Nygren ... 546-7550  
chrisnygren1@gmail.com

##### VICE PRESIDENT

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084  
sedancowboy@outlook.com

##### TREASURER

Jim Wing ... 579-3230  
wingit\_4@msn.com

##### SECRETARY

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

#### DIRECTORS

##### ONE YEAR TERM

Sid Boswell ... 595-7197  
Carl Blaskovitch ... 388-4640  
Tom Lamb ... 908-670-1162

##### TWO YEAR TERM

BOB CRISWELL ... 595-8150  
KELLY JACOBS ... 589-3205  
KATHY VAN DYKE ... 586-2440

#### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Marsh (1 year) ... 587-7578  
Chris Nygren (2 year) ... 546-7550  
Kathy VanDyke (Alternate) ... 586-2440

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971  
pbrantr@gmail.com

#### BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578  
[webmaster@bchmt.org](mailto:webmaster@bchmt.org)  
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : MARCH 16, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : MARCH 16, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP : MARCH 16, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

Contact Kathy VanDyke, 586-2440

#### MEMBERSHIP REMINDER:

2023 renewals are due and  
can be renewed [ONLINE](#)



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Here we are, at the end of full-fledged Winter, and plans are being made for the upcoming trail and riding seasons. Probably about three months until trail crews kick off and until then we have classes and certifications to complete in order to be totally ready. We also have a "Membership Roundup" in March at the normal meeting time to get new members, renew current members and educate others about what we do and the projects we are involved with.

March 16th is the Membership Roundup and we plan on having a dessert social that evening, photo displays, short talks about plans for trail crews, pack trips, Poker Ride and other activities in the Summer and Fall. The emphasis is on bringing friends and letting people know what we do and how many fun activities we have so to encourage new people to join and become active in the chapter. So plan being there and you will probably learn a thing or two about everything going on here that you might have an interest in participating.

Stay warm everybody and looking forward to seeing you on March 16th!

—Chris

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 16**

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Chris Nygren, Laurie Connelly, Dan Porter (proxy for Tom Lamb), Rich Inman, Sid Boswell, Jim Wing, Kathy VanDyke, Dan Marsh, John Mutter, Carl Blaskovich, Kelly Jacobs

**MEETING MINUTES**

Henry moved to accept the meeting minutes as published; Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim reported on the checking account and savings accounts balances. He paid \$248.00 for our PO Box rental and \$20.00 for our Secretary of State filing fee. Kathy moved to accept the report; Carl seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**BUSINESS**

Registration for Convention April 14-16 in Kalispell: Our chapter will pay for the banquet fee of \$40 for anyone who wants to attend. There is no other fee for registering this year. Of course housing and food for the 14-16 are on your own but we will cover the banquet fee. It is the State 50th Anniversary so looks to be a great convention. It is followed by the National Convention at the same location, April 16-19. You can register online at [BCHMT.ORG](http://BCHMT.ORG). You will need to submit a request to Jim (our treasurer) for the \$40 reimbursement. March 13 is the deadline to register if you want the discount.

Just as a reminder, our chapter is scheduled to host the annual convention in 2026 so we should all be thinking about ways to 'throw' a great convention. All ideas are welcome.

Dan Porter did a hiking trail day in Jan which was a great success. He will keep us informed if he will organize another for those interested in trail maintenance in the off season.

New Member Round Up: Kelly brought up her idea of organizing our next meeting to include a program designed to inform new members what our chapter does and how people can volunteer both on the trail and off. She and Kathy will be putting together materials for this presentation. They may contact you for photos to share. Please think of folks you know or places you could post flyers to notify like minded people who may be interested in volunteering or joining our chapter in some way. Our next meeting will be a great time for interested folks to come and meet and greet and learn about what we do.

This year's end of season BBQ at Cache Creek: Dan Porter has looked into availability of Port-a-potties for that location. He has found a company that could provide 2 units for 3 days for \$400. The dates for that gathering are Sept 8,9,10.

Carl, Laurie and Kathy have volunteered to do the annual audit with Jim our current treasurer. They will organize the date for that.

Kathy has volunteered to again be our Chairman for the Poker Ride.

Carl moved to adjourn; Kathy seconded the motion; the motion passed

Chris adjourned the meeting at 6:30

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly



Unfortunately, the three of us were off to the speaker's left side in the group and our images were not captured in the video, but we were there to support our public lands.

Wild Montana paid for the bus transportation to and from the capital as well as water and treats along the way.

There was a large BCHMT banner hung on the railing so we know there were other BCHers present from other Chapters to support the protection and preservation of our public lands, clean water, and clean air in Montana.

It was a day well spent. Hopefully more of our GVBCH members can participate at future rallies.

Thank you "Wild Montana"!! —DP with Mark Deopsomer

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 16**

**PROGRAM**

Tonights General Meeting was our Annual Wild Game Feed. Lots of incredible food brought by all and enjoyed by all. Thank you everyone for coming and bringing your dishes. Always a great night.

Cody and Zach (our new Deputy District Ranger) were present to give us an overview of the Forest Service plans for this year. They also wanted to thank us all for the work we do on the trails. Just a few listed here are, a Logging project in the Hyalites, the commercial logging is done but there will still be some fuels removal logging going on. The Jackson Creek road, the first 4 miles, will be getting resurfaced. Trails in the Bangtail Divide and South Brackett up to Ross pass will be getting worked on. New World Gulch up near the meadow will have some work done as well.

They brought sign up sheets for the volunteer agreement. Please be advised that if you were unable to attend tonight your trail boss should have one for you at the trail-head. Please sign one on your first ride out.

The Forest Service will be providing Chainsaw and First Aid classes again this year. Hopefully some time in April. They will get us dates as soon as they have them. They will have First Aid twice, one in early April and one in early May. Please let Cody know if you need a firearm certification for equine euthanasia. This is basically a background check. There is no class associated with this. Also the ChainSaw certification is for volunteers who will be using the chainsaw on trail-clearing rides and who already have experience with the use of a chainsaw.

Chris, from the Madison District of the Forest Service, was also present and he thanked us for our assistance last year and is hoping we will continue to help out on those trails when we are able. John Mutter is our trail boss for that area and goes out on Tuesdays. He would love any and all volunteers interested in helping out.

Meeting minutes: Janice moved to accept the January meeting minutes as published; DC seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim reported on the checking account and savings accounts balances. He paid \$248 for our PO Box rental and \$20 for Secretary of State filing. Laurie moved to accept the report; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**CHAPTER BUSINESS**

Our State Convention is in Kalispell on April 14-16.

<https://bchmt.org/wp/flathead/50-years/>

Our chapter will pay your banquet fee of \$40 but you must register yourself and then let Jim know so we can reimburse you. March 13 is the deadline for registering. Our chapter needs to provide pictures of our trail work and activities for the convention poster displays. If you have some you would like to contribute please get them to Dan Marsh.

MSU Equine Snippets: the first one on Horsonality was very well attended by our chapter members as well as the public. Their next Snippet is Feb 23 at 6pm at the Miller Pavillion. Dr. Al Flint will be presenting on Equine First Aid.

The 2 Day MSU Backcountry First-Aid course also being put on by MSU will be in June and is not yet fully organized. Those dates are June 19 and 20.

Meeting adjournment: Janice moved to adjourn the meeting; Laurie seconded the motion; the motion passed. Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

Dan Marsh has raffle tickets for the Convention. Send a request to [gvbch@bchmt.org](mailto:gvbch@bchmt.org). He will also have them available at the March meeting. He is also looking for pictures for our slide presentation and people can enter the photo contest:

<https://bchmt.org/wp/flathead/photo-contest/>



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**Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985**

**What: Membership “Round-up”**

**Where: Springhill Church, 4769 W. Babcock, Bozeman**

**When: 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023**

**Why: Learn about the activities and public service provided by our local chapter**

**GV BCH members provide valuable trail-clearing work in your National Forest and Wilderness areas in Gallatin, Madison and Park Counties and surrounding areas as well as infrastructure repair support for the Forest Service. We provide member training in a variety of areas including trail maintenance, backcountry stock use and packing, and riding safety and first aid tips for horse and rider. The chapter also sponsors the popular Bridger Poker Ride, and “fun rides” and activities during the summer/fall seasons.**

**We welcome new members and would love to tell you about our chapter.**

**Please join us on March 16. We will have a dessert potluck and lots of fellowship with like-minded people from the horse and mule community!**

**Contact Kathy VanDyke at (406) 209-0613 for additional information.**

NEW WORLD GULCH  
FEBRUARY 4

Four GVBCH members...Catherine, Esther, DC, and myself enjoyed a refreshing trail hike/work day up New World Gulch. We hiked in approximately 2 miles on packed foot trail trimming encroaching brush and clearing one deadfall. At "High Noon" we stopped to build a small fire and roast hot dogs and smores as planned. We greeted many hikers and cross country skiers who expressed their appreciation for our efforts as we returned to the trailhead at 2:30 pm. Sore muscles and memory of a fun day together was our reward.—DP



**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2022 POKER RIDE**

Stacie Boswell, DVM  
Bridger Bowl  
Four Corners Saddlery

Kenetrek Boots  
Madison River Propane

Montana Canvas  
Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company



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